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ABSTRACT

This book details the history of Indian residential schooling in the Prince Albert region of Saskatchewan from the early 19th century to 1995. Following a foreword by Grand Chief Alphonse Bird of the Prince Albert Grand Council, the book overviews the five distinct institutional periods of Indian residential schooling in Saskatchewan: (1) Presbyterian and Mission School and Emmanuel College (1867-1908); (2) St. Alban's and All Saints Indian Residential Schools (1944-51); (3) Prince Albert Indian Residential School (1951-69); (4) Prince Albert Student Residence (1969-85); and (5) Prince Albert Indian Student Education Centre (1985-present). From the outset, Indian residential schooling in Saskatchewan was shaped by underlying political, economic, and cultural relations between First Nations and the representatives of church and state. The activities of early Christian missionaries who traveled to the Canadian West and North were guided by what they believed to be the spiritual and social needs of Aboriginal peoples. Within this framework, Indian residential schooling was engineered, first and foremost, to advance cultural assimilation. Although they had quite different aspirations for their children, Indian communities did not deny the possible utility of a formal education. The efforts of Indian leaders to take over residential schooling in Prince Albert were undertaken in the absence of support by federal officials for the principles of Indian control of Indian education or for Indian parents' rights to determine what was best for their children. The book attributes the survival, development, and success of the Prince Albert Indian Student Education Centre to the people of the Prince Albert Grand Council. (Contains a bibliography, index, photographs, and chapter notes.) (LP)

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